

REMARKS

The Final Office Action dated May 2, 2006, enters new grounds of rejection. Thus, the Applicant is submitting herewith a Request for Continued Examination and the present Amendment. All objections and rejections are respectfully traversed.

Claims 1-4 and 6-24 are currently pending in the application.

Claims 5 and 14-16 were cancelled in a previous amendment.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. §103

Claims 1, 6-8, 11 and 21-24 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 as being unpatentable over United States Patent No. 5,586,198 to Lakritz et al. (“Lakritz”), in view of United States Patent No. 5,926,566 to Wang et al. (“Wang”).

Applicant’s invention as set forth in representative claim 1 comprises in part:

A system for input of Chinese characters into a machine, comprising:

means for input of information, said means for input further comprising means for selecting information from the group consisting of a stroke, a component and a character;

means for storage of data related to the properties of Chinese characters and compounds, wherein said means for storage comprises data related to component parts of a Chinese character, said data selected from the group consisting of (1) the identification and order of strokes used to draw said character, said strokes being in accordance with a selected classification scheme, (2) the frequency of occurrence of said character as the first character of a word with respect to an operator’s language, (3) **the orthographic components of said character in drawing order**, and (4) in-

dicators of said character's membership within various subsets of Chinese characters;

means for processing said input information, being based upon an order of strokes used to draw said character or components of a character, for retrieving Chinese characters and compounds based upon said stroke sequence, said processing means including a plurality of Chinese character encoding processes based on said stored data;
and

means for display providing an indication of correspondence between elements of said means for input and said display wherein further character selection information is suggested in response to said input.

As set forth in amended claim 1, Applicant's invention is based upon the order of strokes which are normally used to draw a character or to draw a component (being a portion of a character, such as a radical or foundation part to a character). The component or foundation is a first drawn part of a character or a subsequent drawn part, which is identified by a stroke sequence in accordance with the invention.

The cited Lakritz reference mentions stroke sequence when it discusses United States Patent No. 4,829,583 ("Monroe"). Monroe, however, is directed to a system that uses a 9x9 training square upon which a character is drawn. The matrix detects the stroke starting point and the strokes being drawn and matches this with a set of possible corresponding ideographs. The match appears to be made to a character in its entirety. Thus, this system does not allow portions of characters to be used to identify the potential candidate desired by the user. In addition, in order to use the Monroe system effectively, one must have mastered the skill of writing in ideographic script. As noted herein, Applicant's method and system provides a solution for those that may not know or may be mistaken as to the stroke sequence or complete stroke set of a particular character.

The cited references further are directed to identifying a character correctly in the context of using the strokes to find an entire character. The references do not disclose, teach or suggest the use of stroke order to discern other than complete characters, as in Applicant's technique that uses components of characters as well. This aspect is not known in the cited references, and no prior solution touches upon this.

By way of example, in Applicant's system, if three dots are entered in sequence, then one of the options displayed upon the screen will be the foundation element "three dot water" which, when selected, would show on a subsequent screen all completed characters (up to the screen capacity) having "three dot water" as their beginning part. This relieves the burden on the user to enter all subsequent strokes in the correct order. This is an important solution to the problem that existed whereby most errors occur after the first few stroke entries are made. Thus, a user may in accordance with the present invention, find a desired character even though they may be unable to recall the exact subsequent stroke sequence. Notably, stroke order variation can occur as frequently in a user's interaction as do spelling errors, for example, in the case of an alphabetic method. The present invention, though it is order-based, also accommodates the possibility of commonly misentered sequences.

Applicant has amended the claims to more expressly clarify that the order of strokes is not only used to suggest entire characters but also components, being portions of characters based upon stroke sequence. Lakritz, on the other hand, does not disclose teach or suggest Applicant's claimed features of **means for processing said input information, being based upon an order of strokes used to draw said character or**

components of a character, for retrieving Chinese characters and compounds based upon said stroke sequence, said processing means including a plurality of Chinese character encoding processes based on said stored data; and means for display providing an indication of correspondence between elements of said means for input and said display wherein further character selection information is suggested in response to said input.

Wang indicates that if two or more hypotheses have similar competence levels, then they can be reordered according to the number of strokes or a frequency of occurrence of a character. The statement mentions frequency of occurrence of a character but still does explain or render obvious the use of stroke sequence, or order of strokes for the purpose of better identifying ideographic characters *and* portions thereof (i.e., “components”). Furthermore, Applicant respectfully submits that there is no motivation to combine the Lakritz and Wang references. Accordingly, neither reference alone or in combination renders Applicant’s invention obvious.

The other independent claims, namely 11 and 22, were also rejected under the same ground of rejection, and Applicant has similarly amended claims 11 and 22 to further clarify the distinctions which the invention has over the cited references. It is believed that the independent claims are allowable over the cited art.

The remaining rejections set forth in the Office Action relate to dependent claims. Applicant respectfully submits that the independent claims, as amended, are allowable over the cited prior art references, and therefore the claims dependent thereupon are also allowable.

Request for an Interview

The Applicant requests an interview with the Examiner, should the Examiner determine that such interview would further the prosecution of the application.

SUMMARY

All of the claims have been amended either directly or through dependency and it is respectfully submitted that the application is now in condition for allowance.

Please charge any additional fee occasioned by this paper to our Deposit Account No. 03-1237.

Respectfully submitted,



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